

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-16, 19-22, 26-37, 39-46, 49-52, 56-69, 71-74, 77-79, 83-95, 97, 98, 101-103, 107-114, 138, 139, 146, 147, 154, and 158 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,850,914 to Harada et al. ("*Harada*"). The Examiner objected to claims 17, 18, 23-25, 47, 48, 53-55, 75, 76, 80-82, 99, 100, 104-106, 140-145, 148-153, 155-157, and 159-161 as being dependent on rejected base claims, but did not reject those claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 5, 13-17, 20, 21, 25, 36, 43-47, 50, 51, 54, 55, 68, 72-75, 78, 81, 82, 94, 97-99, 102, 105, 106, 144, 145, 150-153, 156, 157, 160, and 161; cancel claims 16, 46, 74, and 98; and add new claims 162-224.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 5, 13-16, 20, 21, 36, 43-46, 50, 51, 68, 72-74, 78, 94, 97, 98, 102, 138, 139, 146, 147, 154, and 158 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicant amends these claims to depend from an indicated allowable claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 5, 13-16, 20, 21, 36, 43-46, 50, 51, 68, 72-74, 78, 94, 97, 98, 102, 138, 139, 146, 147, 154, and 158.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 19, 22, 26-35, 37, 39-42, 49, 52, 56-67, 69, 71, 77, 79, 83-93, 95, 101, 103, and 107-114 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to Japanese Patent Application No. 11-234371, filed August 20, 1999, and Japanese Patent

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Application No. 11-363266, filed December 21, 1999. Applicants submit herewith certified translations of JP 11-234371 and JP 11-363266 as required by 37 C.F.R.

§ 1.55. Applicants' priority date of August 20, 1999, antedates *Harada's* filing date of November 8, 1999. JP 11-234371 supports claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 19, 22, 26-35, 37, 39-42, 49, 52, 56-67, 69, 71, 77, 79, 83-93, 95, 101, 103, and 107-114. Thus, *Harada* is not available as prior art against these claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 19, 22, 26-35, 37, 39-42, 49, 52, 56-67, 69, 71, 77, 79, 83-93, 95, 101, 103, and 107-114.

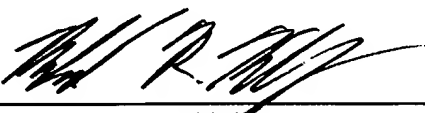
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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